



CALIFORNIA-HAWAII ELKS ASSOCIATION

Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks

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January 22, 2021

To the Leadership of Area 7:

CHEA District Leaders

CHEA Past Association Presidents

CHEA District Deputy Grand Exalted Rulers

Jerry Grimes, Special Deputy, Arizona Elks Association

Jim Shirkey, Special Deputy, Nevada State Elks Association

Bob Pagnani, Special Deputy, Utah Elks Association

Tim Jaeger, CHEA President

Jay Larkins, CHEA First Vice President

In these extraordinary times there is a need for extraordinary measures to conduct the business and statutory requirements of our Lodges. As we approach the election of officers for the coming year a great many questions are being asked how that can be accomplished when lodges are prohibited from meeting.

There are a number of possibilities, all of which center on (a) the right of members to nominate people for elective office, (b) the right of the members to exercise their right of franchise (vote), and (c) to safeguard confidentiality.

As Co-Sponsors, and in consultation with Robyn Sembenini, Area 7 Member on the Committee on Judiciary, we have identified several ways elections may be conducted, as set out below. There may be others.

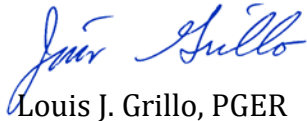
(a) Drive-up Balloting: Lodges may notify their membership that any nominations for office must be submitted by a certain date to develop a candidate population. Then the list of candidates is distributed and the membership will have the opportunity to stop by the lodge on an identified date and time frame to cast their ballots.

(b) Mail-in Balloting: The Secretary will send Bates numbered nomination forms to members that can be dropped off or mailed. The same process will apply for elections. Bates numbering protects the anonymity of the member casting the ballot and will only need to be referenced to verify it is a legitimate ballot or if there is a question about the vote. There are free online apps that can be used to add numbering to pdf documents. Alternatively, ballots can be mailed to the members, to be cast and then inserted into a blank envelope, to then be inserted into an envelope to be mailed with the member's name only on the outside. This way the member casting the ballot can be identified but the blank envelope can be set aside to be later counted on an anonymous basis.

(c) Zoom/Virtual Platforms: Many Lodge meeting are hosted via Zoom Pro or other virtual platforms. Members in good standing could be given password access to necessary meetings. Members log into the zoom meeting (a paid account is not required to participate) using their membership number and password. If there is more than one member in that household, each must use a separate device to log in. Balloting is conducted using the polling feature. A screenshot is captured to show the total votes. The polling feature does not capture information as to who has participated in the poll and only provides a total number of votes for each option offered in the poll. The secretary/host will know if the number of poll responses exceeds the number of members on the call. If that occurs, the process is repeated. The screenshots are deleted as breaking of the box.

There may be other methods, but if the lodge observes the three fundamental principles to maintain the integrity of the process we are confident the best interests of the Lodge will be furthered.

Fraternally,



Louis J. Grillo, PGER



Robert L. Duitsman, PGER